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U.S.-HANOI AID
BY KENNETH J. FREED

*Agreement on U.S.-Hanoi aid.
HAK, SCOR 20F7, LL*

WASHINGTON (AP)-AN UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED ON A U.S. ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM FOR NORTH VIETNAM, BUT AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL AGREEMENT UNTIL ALL FIGHTING ENDS IN INDOCHINA.

FEARFUL OF UPSETTING CONGRESSIONAL SENSITIVITIES, THE OFFICIALS WERE RELUCTANT TO GIVE ANY DETAILS.

HOWEVER, IT WAS LEARNED THE PROGRAM COVERED FIVE YEARS AND DEALS PRIMARILY WITH PROVIDING FOOD AND HOUSING, AT LEAST AT THE OUTSET. LATER AID WOULD COVER REHABILITATION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY, SUCH AS REBUILDING LIGHT INDUSTRY DESTROYED BY AMERICAN BOMBING.

ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID NONE OF THE AID COULD BE USED FOR WAR PRODUCTION.

THE SOURCES REFUSED TO DISCUSS COST OF THE PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH WHEN U.S.-NORTH VIETNAM ECONOMIC TALKS FIRST BEGAN IN PARIS LAST MARCH REPORTS SURFACED MENTIONING \$750 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS.

UNTIL THURSDAY, STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS LEFT THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS NEAR.

BUT LE DUC THO, THE CHIEF NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATOR IN THE EARLIER PARIS PEACE TALKS, PUBLICLY DISCLOSED THE AID AGREEMENT THURSDAY IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST OVER THE HANOI TELEVISION STATION.

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EDITORS: PLS CORRECT NO. OF ABOVE ITEM TO "6" (NOT 46)

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